

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056030

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: THE MWANT YAV AND KATANGAN SECESSIONISM

1. WE NOTICED IN REPORTING THAT THE LUNDA PARAMOUNT CHIEF THE MWANT YAV IS IN KOLWEZI AND THEREFORE WAS NOT IN KAPANGA WHEN THE HOSTILE FORCE ENTERED. IS PRESIDENT MOBUTU CONSIDERING ASKING MWANT YAV (WHO DESPITE FAMILY HISTORY AND OCCASIONAL PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CRITICISM HAS TIES TO MOBUTU) TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO KATANGAN GENDARMES?

2. ABOVE QUESTION LEADS TO SUBJECT OF KATANGAN SECESSIONISM. THE CONGOLESE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (FNLC) HAS ISSUED PRESS STATEMENTS IN EUROPE CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK. GIVEN KATANGAN HISTORY, AND KATANGAN GENDARME AFFILIATION OF FNLC, IT SEEMS TO US POSSIBLE THAT HOSTILE FORCE COULD BE BRANDED WITH SECESSIONIST LABEL. ARMED OPPOSITION TO MOBUTU IS ONE THING, BUT REVIVAL OF SECESSIONIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY (PARTICULARLY ONE WITH STILL
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TAINTED KATANGAN LABEL) WILL NOT LIKELY BE VIEWED FAVORABLY IN MANY AFRICAN CAPITALS.

3. WE NOTE THAT GOZ'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM THESE LINES OF ATTACK AND RAISE THEM SOLELY FOR CONSIDERATION BY EMBASSY AND FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOZ OFFICIALS AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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